



The 12th Edition

Volume 5, Issue 5

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, May 9, 2003

News Briefs

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is **May 30 at 2 p.m. in the Catalina Room at the Officers' Club.**

Honorees need to be in place by 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

Free Admission

Through "Operation Salute," Anheuser-Busch is giving free single-day admission to its Sea World, Busch Gardens and Sesame Palace parks to military personnel and their families.

Active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as four of their direct dependents may attend the parks beginning Friday May 23, Memorial Day weekend, and concluding on Nov 11, Veterans Day.

Education Resources!

Peterson's study resources and practice tests are now available online free of cost, compliments of the Air Force.

This is a great site for those who are looking to take CLEP, DANTES, GMAT and Officer Candidate Tests.

<http://www.petersons.com/airforce/testprep.html>

Activation code can be obtained from the base library, FL3047.

Returning Troops

Each month the Hope Chapel is hosting a Welcome Home Banner Event for military members returning to DM and their spouses. This month's event is May 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Chapel.

Speakers will address the returning members and spouses about reunions.

Spouses will need to sign up for the events in advance. For more information, call Gloria McKamy, 228-6017.

U.S. Army South recognizes 25 OWS

Lt Col Patrick Ludford
25 OWS Director of Operations

On April 21, 2003, in a special ceremony held at Headquarters, US Army South, Ft Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Maj Gen Alfred Valenzuela, Commanding General, personally recognized the 25th Operational Weather Squadron for outstanding contributions to the USARSO mission over the past 3 years. Lt Col Bob Mahood, Commander, 25 OWS, and Maj Jon Kelly, Flight Commander, USSOUTHCOM Operations, attended the ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of the squadron.

Cooperation is close between the two organizations. Since the 25 OWS activation in April 1999, the squadron has provided nearly 2,000 briefings for the USARSO commander and staff, detailing current and forecast conditions throughout USARSO's 15.6 million square mile area of responsibility. In addition, the 25 OWS continuously advises the headquarters on actions necessary to protect US Army forces affected by the most active tropical storm and hurricane region in the world. In fact, the weather support for the 2002 tropical season was so successful that Maj Gen Valenzuela personally awarded Army Commendation Medals to the two-person 25 OWS' team at HQ USARSO.

The 25 OWS is also deeply involved in every major Army operation in the Caribbean Basin and Latin America. Highlights include six extremely successful NEW HORIZONS nation-assistance missions and 29 medical-readiness training exercises. Backed by 25 OWS weather support, forward-deployed US Army commanders safely met hundreds

of mission objectives despite life-threatening floods and heavy rains, excessive heat and humidity, and dangerous winds and lightning from severe thunderstorms. In the end, these exercises successfully constructed over 20 schools and 8 clinics and medically treated more than 322,000 host nation patients in Paraguay, El Salvador, Panama, Belize, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

The squadron's contributions to USARSO go beyond forecasting. Although designed to provide weather services primarily through reachback communications, squadron forecasters regularly deploy to support various Army missions throughout the theater. In addition, 25 OWS personnel helped define weather equipment and manning requirements for USARSO's Early Entry Command Post, the headquarters' deployable crisis response cell. Moreover, based largely on USARSO requirements, the 25 OWS worked closely with the USSOUTHCOM staff to justify inclusion of remote weather sensing capability on the Commander, USSOUTHCOM, Integrated Priority List. The effort is paying off now as a dozen automated systems are being purchased for deployment throughout the data-sparse region, vastly improving the 25 OWS' ability to forewarn deployed forces of potentially hazardous weather.

In a separate ceremony, Mr. William Cancel, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, also presented the 25 OWS with a certificate of appreciation. Mr. Cancel cited the great teamwork between the 25 OWS and USARSO as proof the Air Force and Army "do Joint" better than other services. He concluded, "The 25 OWS has truly shown what a great organization it is!"

429 EOS trains security at local airport



Photo courtesy of 429 EOS

SrA Joe Hobert, 21st SFS at Peterson AFB, Colo., demonstrates the use of a mirror to check a vehicle for explosives

Recently, the International Security Coordinator for American Airlines at Hato IAP, Curacao, invited members of the 429 EOS (FOL Curacao) to participate in the periodic "Advanced Security Course". In the past, FOL personnel have been passive attendees, but this time the Security Forces NCOIC, MSgt Israel Reyes, volunteered his expertise and that of the deployed SF troops. U.S. personnel taught blocks on Improvised Explosive Devices and Vehicle Security Search Techniques, as well as demonstrating some of their equipment. The local conference attendees were airport and other security officials including local police.

The impact of FOL participation is that underfunded and undertrained local security personnel have the opportunity to receive first-class training that would otherwise have been unaffordable and unavailable.



Photo Courtesy of 478 EOS

Captain Harry Burns, MSgt Louie Borja, and PO1 Robert Caro with Carlos Avila after he received the wheelchair donated by the 478 EOS in Manta.

478 EOS and Navy staff team up to provide wheelchairs to needy children

When an Ecuadorean soldier asked a Security Forces member for a wheel chair for his little brother who can no longer walk, personnel at the 478 EOS went into action. Through Major Jose Iguina, Chief of Security Forces, and his contacts in Puerto Rico, the FOL was able to locate a good used chair for \$100. Using Navy aircraft to bring it to Ecuador, that child got his wheelchair. When the Navy Staff in Puerto Rico saw this success story, they wanted to get involved and asked how they could donate two more chairs. Thru a local church, 2 needy children were identified and each received a chair. In addition, the FOL has purchased four more chairs which will be distributed to a church and a school for special needs children when they arrive in country.

The New AF "Parent Pin"



To thank parents of America's airmen for supporting their sons and daughters as they fight the Global War on Terrorism,

the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force have introduced the Parent Pin.

The pin features the letter 'P' cradled in the Air Force Symbol, a contemporary adaptation of the WWII era 'E' flags worn by employers of military personnel.

This pin gives parents a way to display support for their children in the Air Force and Airmen a way to express their appreciation for their parents' support and encouragement.

In addition to the pin, parents will receive a letter from the SECAF and CSAF.

To register as a new "Your Guardians of Freedom" user and have a lapel pin sent to your parents, log on to www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com



The 12th Edition



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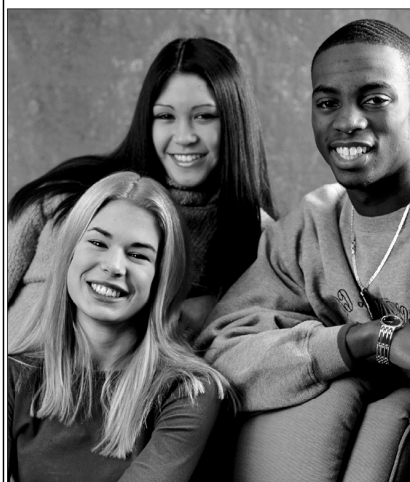
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Technical Sgt

Thaddeus M. Gravely

Master Sgt

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Lynn A. Parker

1st Lieutenant

Steven W. Ready

Major

Mara C. Wight

Lieutenant Colonel

Maureen C. Murphy

Colonel

Mark S. Larson

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt Melvin L. French
Third Oak Leaf Cluster

ACC 2002 Weather Best NCO

MSgt Thomas E. Zipprich

USARSO Special Recognition

25th Operational Weather
Squadron

Top of the 12th

Capt. Sue Kim is the Twelfth Air Force Section Commander.

“Suzanne is an incredibly dedicated member of the A-1 staff who works very hard to accomplish our mission,” said Lt Col Lukenic, A-1 deputy.

“She’s done top-notch work for Twelfth Air Force and will continue to do so at her next assignment in Beale AFB, CA,” added Lt Col Lukenic.

Years of service: 12

Hometown: Oscoda, MI

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

Manages the 12 AF Commanders’ Support Staff.

Favorite aspects of 12 AF: The challenge and stimulation that my job provides. I also like the beautiful locaton of Twelfth Air Force and the excellent facilities that we have available here.

If you could change one thing about your base, what would it be? I wish it were ten degrees cooler in the summer time and that the ocean was closer.

What motivates your winning attitude?

The outstanding Orderly Room staff that I have the pleasure to work with is always a great motivator. I also work to maintain a positive mental attitude.



Capt Kim

Returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom or other deployments?

Contact your Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) or Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs, to get an Hometown News Release form. When you fill out the form, sign and return it to Public Affairs, your information will be sent to newspapers, TV and Radio stations in your hometown. Doing this will ensure that your hometown family and friends can recognize the outstanding work that you have done for the Air Force!

